

R E M A R K S

The claims as submitted herewith are for the convenience of the Examiner per her telephone conference with the undersigned today. All of the pending claims are presented herein in their current form for the convenience of the Examiner. That is:

- a. The claims marked "Original" are the claims as resulted from the PCT prosecution of the international application (and thus some of these "Original" claims are not as filed with the original PCT application, but are the result of amendments during the PCT phase).
- b. The claims marked as "Withdrawn" are those which were not elected in Applicant's September 3, 2004 Response to Restriction Requirement (claims 1-8 were elected).
- c. The claims marked as "Previously Presented" are those claims which were amended in the Preliminary Amendment and which were elected. All of those amendments were merely to remove multiple dependencies. (Claims 11-14 were amended in the Preliminary Amendment but are marked "Withdrawn" because they were not elected).

As noted in today's telephone conference, the objection raised in the December 2, 2004 Communication to claim 3 as presented in the Preliminary Amendment is incorrect. Claim 3 was not amended in the Preliminary Amendment (and therefore was properly not indicated to be amended), because the change which the Examiner has referred to in claim 3 took place prior to

this national stage application (*i.e.*, during the PCT prosecution of the international application).

In summary, the form of the claims presently at issue is as presented herein, namely claims 1-8. Of those claims, only claims 4, 5 and 8 have been amended during this national stage, in every case merely to eliminate multiple dependencies.

It is submitted that the claims at issue are allowable as presented herein. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0785 the necessary amount.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER

By Jeffrey L. Clark
Jeffrey L. Clark
Reg. No. 29,141

January 4, 2005

500 West Madison Street
Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60661-2511
(312) 876-1800